

# It's Not That Easy

## I Feel Like an Outcast

Adapted from:

[www.baptiststart.com/sermons\\_ppt.html](http://www.baptiststart.com/sermons_ppt.html)

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## **It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast**

**Be merciful to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and my body with grief.**

**My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak.**

## **It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast**

**Because of all my enemies, I am the utter  
contempt of my neighbors;  
I am a dread to my friends—those who see  
me on the street flee from me.**

**I am forgotten by them as though I were  
dead; I have become like broken pottery.**

## **It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast**

**For I hear the slander of many;  
there is terror on every side;  
they conspire against me  
and plot to take my life.**

**But I trust in you, O LORD;  
I say, "You are my God."**

## **It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast**

**My times are in your hands;  
deliver me from my enemies  
and from those who pursue me.  
Let your face shine on your servant;  
save me in your unfailing love.**

## **It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast**

**How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you.**

**In the shelter of your presence you hide them from the intrigues of men;  
in your dwelling you keep them safe from accusing tongues. (Psalms 31:9-16,19,20)**

# **It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast**

## **Reasons People Can Feel Like An Outcast**

- **Teased or bullied at school**
- **They had a significant failure**
- **Downsized by their company**
- **Deserted & divorced by their spouse**

# **It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast**

## **Reasons People Can Feel Like An Outcast**

- **They didn't grow up here**
- **They feel less successful than others**
- **They feel less attractive than others**
- **They were rejected or ignored by their parents**



**Folks Like Us Make a Group Like Ours.  
*Others Need Not Apply!***

- Yet they are not wise, measuring themselves, as they do, by one another and comparing themselves with one another. (2 Corinthians 10:12)

**Too Successful**

**Outdoorsman**

**Too Dumb**

**Too Country**

**Too Citified**

**Too Intellectual**

**Techno Nerd**

**Too Unsuccessful**

# It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast

## These Same Feelings Were Expressed by Biblical Writers

- Psalms 22:6 “But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people.”
- Psalms 31:11-12 “I am a reproach among all my enemies, But especially among my neighbors, And am repulsive to my acquaintances...”

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- Psalms 102:6-7 “I am like a pelican of the wilderness; I am like an owl of the desert. I lie awake, And am like a sparrow alone on the housetop.”

## Jesus Experienced Being an Outcast

- Isaiah 53:3 “He is despised and rejected by men... He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.”
- John 1:11, “Even in his own land and among his own people, he was not accepted.”

# It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast

## When You Feel Like An Outcast:

### *Two Promises to Claim*

**Promise #1: No matter who rejects you,  
God's there!!**

- **Isaiah 49:14-15** "...Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you."

# It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast

**Promise #1: No matter who rejects you, God's there!!**

- Psalms 27:10 “When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me”
- 2nd Tim. 4:16-17 “At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me... But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me...”

# It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast

## Promise #2: God Will Write the Last Chapter

- Psalms 31:19-20 “Oh, how great is Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You, Which You have prepared for those who trust in You In the presence of the sons of men! You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence From the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion From the strife of tongues.”

# It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast

## Promise #2:

### God Will Write the Last Chapter

- Psalm 142:2-3 “The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers together the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds.”

# It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast

## What To Do When You Feel Like an Outcast

### 1. Get Strength from God

- 1st Samuel 30:6 “Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him... But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.”



# It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast

## 2. Don't Believe the Lies

- That you are dumb and worthless
- That it is your fault
- That you have to put up with it
- That there is a code of silence
- Proverbs 11:9 “The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.”

# It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast

## ...Instead, Believe the Truth

- Psalm 8:4-5 “What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor.”
- 2nd Thessalonians 2:13 “But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you...”

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## 3. Double-check to Make Sure You Didn't Give Reason for Offense

- 1st Peter 4:15-16 “If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.”
- Meddling
- A judgmental attitude
- Being more “righteous” than others

# **It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast**

## **4. Be Assertive, But Not Vindictive**

- If you are harassed, tell them to stop**
- If necessary, report it**
- But don't retaliate**

## It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast

- Your life doesn't have to be defined by your wounds.
- Remember that your present doesn't have to be enslaved by your past.
- Hebrews 12:15: See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

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## 5. Look Out for the Others

- Proverbs 12:18: “Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.”
- A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. (Proverbs 25:11)

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## 6. Don't Become One of Them

- Proverbs 22:22-23: “Do not rob the poor because he is poor, Nor oppress the afflicted at the gate; For the LORD will plead their cause, And plunder the soul of those who plunder them.”

# It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast

## 7. Don't Be Surprised It's Happening

- 1st Peter 4:12: “Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.”



## It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast

- Proverbs 12:6, “The words of the wicked are a deadly ambush, but the speech of the upright delivers them.”
- Proverbs 15:4: “A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.”

# Summary: I Feel Like an Outcast

- **Two Promises to Claim**
  1. **No matter who rejects you, God's there!**
  2. **God will write the last chapter.**

# Summary: I Feel Like an Outcast

## Practical Steps:

1. **Get Strength from God**
2. **Don't Believe the Lies but the Truth**
3. **Make Sure You Aren't at Fault**
4. **Be Assertive, But Not Vindictive**
5. **Look Out for Others**
6. **Don't Become One of Them**
7. **Don't Be Surprised It's Happening**

# It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast

- God's created you.
- See yourself as God does.
- God's way is NOT what we do or don't do.
- God's way is that everyone is either .....  
"saved" or "unsaved" .... "in Adam" or "in  
Christ"

## **It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast**

- **We don't "demand" our rights as Christians.**
- **We are "thankful" for God's grace.**
- **We have been given "sonship" by receiving His Son's forgiveness through His death on the cross and by faith in His resurrection.**

## It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast

- The “world” looks at people’s looks, job, social standing, car, home, family, etc.  
.....but God looks at the heart!!!
- But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7)

## **It's Not That Easy: I Feel Like an Outcast**

- **We need not think “too highly” or “too little” of ourselves. But to see ourselves as God does....as His children who He died for!!!**
- **And humbly accept the truth planted in us!!**

# WHO AM I?

- **The term “in Christ”**  
(“in love,” “in whom,” “in him,” etc.)  
**is mentioned over 100 times in the NT.**
- **We have passed over from death**  
(the wages of sin is death)  
**to life**  
(but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus).



# WHO AM I?

- **We are either:**
  - in Adam – identified with our earthly parentage**
  - OR**
  - in Christ – identified with our spiritual Father – God.**
- **Let's take some time now and understand who we are “in Christ”.**

# Your Identity: Who you are “in Christ”

- **My name is recorded in heaven. (Luke 10:20)**
- **I have life in Christ. (John 1:4)**
- **I have everlasting life (John 6:47),**
- **I have abundant life (John 10:10),**
- **I have eternal life (John 10:28)**
- **I have a mansion of Glory waiting (John 14:2)**

# Your Identity: Who you are “in Christ”

- I am a friend of God (John 15:15)
- I am in Jesus’ prayers and a gift to Jesus from God (John 17:9, 12, 14)
- I am saved by Christ (Acts 4:12)
- By believing in Christ I receive forgiveness of sins through his name (Acts 10:43)
- In Christ, I live and move and have my being. I am His offspring. (Acts 17:28)

# Your Identity: Who you are “in Christ”

- **My hope in God has given me the promised resurrection of my body (Acts 24:15)**
- **I have received reconciliation through Jesus Christ. (Rom 5:11)**
- **I am dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Rom 6:11)**
- **I am indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Rom.8:16)**
- **I am an heir of God and joint-heir with Christ (Rom.8:17)**

# Your Identity: Who you are “in Christ”

- .....nothing will be able to separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:39)
- I am sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy (1 Cor 1:2)
- Because of God I am in Christ Jesus (1 Cor 1:30)
- Christ has become for me wisdom from God -- my righteousness, holiness and redemption. (1 Cor.1:30)

# Your Identity: Who you are “in Christ”

- **My body is the Holy Spirit’s abode  
(1 Cor.6:19)**
- **God has put his Spirit in my heart as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.  
(2 Cor.1:21)**
- **By God’s power I will live with him to serve others. (2 Cor 13:4)**
- **I have freedom in Christ Jesus and will not become a slave again to sin. (Gal 2:4)**
- **I am a son of God through faith in Christ Jesus  
(Gal 3:26)**

## Your Identity: Who you are “in Christ”

- **I have been blessed in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing (Eph 1:3)**
- **I was chosen in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless (Eph 1:4)**
- **God raised me up with Christ and seated me with him in the heavenly realms (Eph 2:6)**
- **God will show me the incomparable riches of his grace (Eph.2:7)**

# Your Identity: Who you are “in Christ”

- **Christ has become for me wisdom from God -- my righteousness, holiness and redemption. (1 Cor.1:30)**
- **I am God’s workmanship. (Eph.2:10)**
- **I’m created in Christ Jesus to do good works prepared in advance for me (Eph.2:10)**
- **In Christ Jesus I have been brought near through the blood of Christ. (Eph 2:13)**



# Your Identity: Who you are “in Christ”

- **I have access to God through Jesus (Eph.2:18)**
- **I have heavenly citizenship in Christ (Phil.3:20)**
- **My name is recorded in heaven (Phil 4:3)**
- **The peace of God will guard my heart and mind in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:7)**
- **I have the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, (2 Tim 1:1)**

# Your Identity: Who you are “in Christ”

- **I am a child of God, and I belong to him  
(1 Pet.1:9)**
- **I am redeemed by the precious blood of Christ  
(1 Pet.1:18,19)**
- **I have been born again of incorruptible seed  
(1 Pet.1:23)**
- **I am a priest of God (1 Pet.2:5,9)**
- **I have and will receive the Blessed Hope  
(Titus 2:13)**

# Your Identity: Who you are “in Christ”

- I am born of God and I will discontinue to sin, because God's seed remains in me (I Jn 3:9)
- I know that I live in him and he in me, because he has given me of his Spirit. (I Jn 4:13)
- I acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God, so God lives in me and I in God. (I Jn 4:15)
- I know him who is true. And I am in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. (I Jn 5:20)

# Your Identity: Who you are “in Christ”

**IF YOU ARE BORN AGAIN OF GOD’S SPIRIT, THEN THIS IS WHO YOU REALLY ARE!!**

**You no longer have to spend your life trying to “become” someone you are not!!**

# Your Identity: Who you are “in Christ”

**You are a child of God  
and loved by the Jesus “eternally”.**

**All that is the Father’s is yours!!**

**The Father loves you  
just as He loves Jesus!**